(b) if so, the details of the findings of inquiries into the scam indicating the total amount found to have been involved and its modus operandi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) During the course of investigation conducted so far, it has come to light that NDMC had granted a contract for computerisation of electricity/ water bills to M/s. Software Consultants India Pvt. Ltd. in 1985. In 1992, this firm was also awarded the contract for collection of these bills from the consumers.

For this purpose 4 counters were opened at Parliament Annex, Kidwai Nagar, Palika Bhawan and Gole Market in 1992 and later on more centres were opened at Bengali Market, Kaka Nagar, Nirman Bhavan, Palika Kendra.

Since the billing and collection of electricity and water bills were assigned to the same agency, it used to collect full amount of the bills from the consumers, issue computerised receipts and simultaneously enter these receipts in the computers. After daily collections, some persons of the agency used to copy the entries of daily collection stored in the computer in a separate computer file and thereafter resort to random manipulations of the collection entries in this file by reducing the amount actually collected from different consumers. Thus, difference of the actual collection and the amount shown in the manipulated collection statement that was being submitted to the NDMC alongwith the cash collected on the next day was being misappropriated.

The Computer file containing actual collection was used for the purpose of issuing the next bills to the consumers so that no arrears would get reflected in the bills of the consumers. Only the bills of the private consumers were being manipulated.

Although the manipulated statements alongwith reduced cash were deposited with the NDMC cash section on the next day, the statement showing actual collection was used to be deposited at the end of the year with the Rent Section of the NDMC, and the two were never tallied by the concerned sections of the NDMC. This encouraged/enabled the agency to perpetuate the fraud over a long period.

Investigation has so far revealed that by way of the above mentioned modus operandi the owner of the agency had misappropriated a sum of Rs. 6 crores approximately from March 1996 to 27th September, 1996, when the fraud was detected. Starting with lesser amounts, the misappropriation in the later stages appears to be to the tune of approximately Rs. 30 lakhs per month. NDMC has been requested by the CBI to conduct a Special Audit for helping the CBI in ascertaining the full amount misappropriated by way of this fraud.

Control of Social Evils

32. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions of Law that control the social evils like obscenity, rape of minor girls, sex-related violence, terrorist activities and such other vices in our country;

(b) the details of such crimes during the last 3 years;

(c) whether these provisions of Law have been able to effectively control the crime in these field;

(d) whether Government consider these provisions enough to deal with such type of crimes; and

(e) if not, the measures Government propose to bring forward in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Punishments for various social evils like obscenity, rape of minor child, sex-related violence, terrorist activities etc. are provided in the Indian Penal Code.

(b) Details are placed at Statement (*See* below).

(c) to (e) The existing legal provisions appear to be quite strict but even so the Government would not be unresponsive to suggestions for improvement.

Statement

No. of cases repoted under the Head Obscenity, Rape of Minor Child, Sex violence and TADA during 1993 to 1995

Sl. No.	Crime-Head	1993	1994	1995
1.	Indecent Representation (Prohibition) Act	N.A	389	911
*2.	Rape of minor child	3393	3978	UC
3.	Rape	11242	12351	12204
4.	Molestation	20985	24117	25446
5.	Eve-teasing	12009	10496	10916
6.	Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (TADA)	3743	3183	1273

Source: 1. *Crime in India report Monthly Crime Statistics
2. Figures are provisional
3. NA stands for not available
4. UC — Under Collection.

Allocation for Rural Telcom Facilities

33. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) the amount proposed to be spent on rural telecom facilities during 1996-97; and

(b) the details of concessions to be given to rural telecom users?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Rs. 983.13 Crores is proposed to be spent on rural telecom facilities during 1996-97.

(b) The concessions available to rural telecom users w.e.f. 1st January, 1996 may be seen in the attached statement (*See* below).

No further concessons are contemplated.

Statement

1. The Rural Telecom Package announced on 22 November 1995 has the following components:

(a) Free calls increased from 150 to 250 per billing cycle for rural subscribers.

(b) Registration fee reduced from Rs. 2000.00 to Rs. 1000.00 for rural subscribers serviced by exchange systems upto 10,000 lines.

(c) The telephone rental for all rural subscribers reduced to Rs. 100.00

(d) The amount of Installation charges presently fixed at Rs. 300/- shall be maintained upto 31.3.98 for rural subscribers.

(e) Local, STD & ISD charges reduced by 25% for first 200 calls beyound free call limit for rural subscribers.

(f) Commission payable to Panchayat PCO Franchises enhanced from 20% to 50% on gross turn-over including the telephones to be provided to the franchisees of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojna launched by Deptt. of Posts.

(g) Commission to STD/ISD/PCO franchisees:

(i) in rural areas enhanced to 25% on gross turn-over per month.

(ii) Commission to PCO franchisees in non-rural areas of the predominantly hilly states/tribal and hilly areas enhanced to 20% on the gross turn-over upto Rs. 50,000,00 per month and 15% thereafter.

(iii) Commission to STD PCO Franchisees in the rest of the country to be paid @ 16% upto a gross of Rs. 20,000.00 per month; @ 15% on gross turn over between Rs. 20,000.00 and Rs. 50,000.00 per month and @ 12% on the gross turn-over beyond Rs. 50,000.00 per month.